

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the subject application. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 5-7, 11, and 12 have been amended. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn and the application be forwarded along to issuance.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 7, 8, 10, and 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over EPO Patent Application No. 0,571,194 to Ueda (hereinafter "Ueda").

Ueda discloses a mimeographic printing machine (30) coupled to a sorter (1). *See, e.g.,* Ueda, Figs. 1 and 4. The printing machine (30) includes an operating panel (70) that includes keys (74) that allow a user to select a print speed. Ueda, Fig. 3 and col. 5, lines 45-55. The printing machine (30) includes a ROM (101) storing a predetermined print speed for the sorter (1). Ueda, col. 7, lines 9-20. The predetermined speed is a speed at which the sorter works in a desirable fashion. Ueda, col. 7, lines 9-20. If a print speed selected using keys (74) exceeds the predetermined print speed, the printing machine (30) sets the print speed to a speed Ueda to or less than the predetermined print speed. Ueda, col. 7, lines 1-8.

Claim 7 recites a media-handling system comprising:

- a printer having an output, wherein the printer output is variable among a plurality of output speeds, the printer being configured to communicate the plurality of output speeds; and
- a first accessory device having an input coupled to receive media from the output of the printer, the input of the first accessory device being variable among a plurality of first input speeds, wherein the first accessory device is configured to select an input speed from among the plurality of first input speeds according to at least one of the plurality of output speeds communicated by the printer.

Rejecting Claim 7, the Examiner asserts that Ueda discloses a first accessory device configured to match its input speed to one of a plurality of output speeds of a printer. The Examiner's argument is reproduced as follows:

Ueda further discloses in column 7, lines 28-34 that "[t]his predetermined speed is a speed such the printed sheets ... can be sorted exactly and orderly." This indicates that the sorter can match a printing speed of 60 sheets/minute and sort papers correctly.

As amended, Claim 7 requires a first accessory device configured to select an input speed from among a plurality of first input speeds according to at least one of the plurality of output speeds communicated by the printer. Ueda's sorter (1) has no such capability. Moreover, Ueda's printing machine (30) does not communicate anything to the sorter (1) other than sheets of paper.

For at least these reasons, Claim 7 is felt to distinguish over Ueda. Claims 8 and 10 are also felt to distinguish over Ueda based at least on their dependency from Claim 7.

Claim 13 recites a method that includes the following acts:

- identifying a second device coupled to an output of a first device, wherein the output of the first device is variable among a plurality of output speeds;
- providing a list of the plurality of output speeds to the second device;
- receiving from the second device a selected output speed at which the first device is to output media to the second device; and
- the first device outputting media to the second device at the selected output speed.

For the first element above, the Examiner has not addressed the requirement of identifying a second device coupled to a first device. Addressing the first element, the Examiner simply notes that Ueda's printing machine (30) can print at varying speeds as selected through operating panel (70).

With respect to the second element, which requires providing a list of the plurality of output speeds to the second device, the Examiner simply states:

Although Ueda et al's invention does not explicitly disclose that a list of speeds are sent to the second device (in their case a sorter), it is understood that the printer can print anywhere from 0 to a maximum sheet/minute output of the printer because the print set-up keys allows so

The fact that Ueda's printing machine (30) can print at variable speeds is irrelevant. Claim 13 requires providing a list of the plurality of output speeds to the second device. Ueda printing machine (30) does not provide the sorter (1) with a list of anything let alone a list of speeds.

With respect to the third element, which requires receiving from the second device a selected output speed at which the first device is to output media to the second device, the Examiner states:

Ueda et al discloses in column 7, lines 19-23 that "...if the print speed data to be input by the print speed set-up keys 74 is 100 sheets/minute (100 r.p.m.), which exceeds the upper threshold, it will be substituted by 60 sheets/minute (60 r.p.m.), which is a predetermined speed."

The Examiners comments are again irrelevant. Ueda's printing machine (30) does not receive a selected output speed from the sorter (1). The Examiner admits as much in the rejection of Claim 1.

For at least these reasons Claim 13 is felt to distinguish over Ueda. Claims 14-17 are also felt to distinguish over Ueda based at least on their dependency from Claim 13.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EPO Patent Application No. 0,571,194 to Ueda (hereinafter "Ueda").

Claim 1 recites a media-handling system, comprising:

- a printer having an output, wherein the printer output is variable among a plurality of output speeds; and
- a first accessory device having an input coupled to receive media from the output of the printer, the input of the first accessory device having an associated input speed being variable among a plurality of first input speeds, wherein the first accessory device is configured to communicate the plurality of first input speeds to the printer; and

- wherein the printer is configured to select an output speed from among the plurality of output speeds according to at least one of the plurality of first input speeds communicated by the first accessory device.

Rejecting Claim 1, the Examiner, referring to Ueda, columns 6 and 7, notes that Ueda fails to disclose an accessory device configured to communicate its input speed to a printer. Instead, the Examiner contends that it would be obvious to modify Ueda such that the ROM (101) of printing machine (30) containing the predetermined print speed be moved to the sorter (1), and that the sorter (1) communicate the predetermined print speed to the printing machine (30).

Notwithstanding the Examiner's contentions, Ueda does not disclose a first accessory device that is variable among a plurality of input speeds and configured to communicate those input speeds to the printer in the manner required by Claim 1. Furthermore, Ueda does not disclose a printer configured to select its output speed according to at least one input speed communicated by the first accessory device. Ueda simply teaches a single predetermined print speed stored in ROM (101). Regardless of whether ROM (101) is present on printing machine (30) or sorter (1), ROM (101) does not contain and cannot be used to communicate a plurality of input speeds.

For at least these reasons Claim 1 is felt to distinguish over Ueda. Claims 2 and 3 are also felt to distinguish over Ueda based at least on their dependency from Claim 1.

Claims 4-6, 9, 11, 12, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EPO Patent Application No. 0,571,194 to Ueda (hereinafter "Ueda") in view of USPN 6,241,404 issued to Fietze (hereinafter "Fietze").

- Claims 4-6 are felt to distinguish over the cited references based at least on their dependency from Claim 1.
- Claims 9, 11, and 12 are felt to distinguish over the cited references based at least on their dependency from Claim 7.
- Claims 18 is felt to distinguish over the cited references based at least on its dependency from Claim 13.

Claims 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EPO Patent Application No. 0,571,194 to Ueda (hereinafter "Ueda") in view of USPN 6,241,404 issued to Fietze (hereinafter "Fietze") and further in view of USPN 5,629,775 issued to Platteter (hereinafter "Platteter"). Claims 19 and 20 are felt to distinguish over the cited references based at least on their dependency from Claim 13.

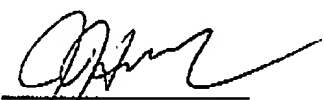
CONCLUSION

Claims 1-20 are felt to be in condition for allowance. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing the application to issue is earnestly solicited. The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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